116th IEEE Region 8 Committee Meeting
Unapproved Minutes of the Meeting

Online, 20ᵗʰ – 21ˢᵗ March 2021

The agenda and backup documentation are available at: https://agd.ieee.org/mpt/Agenda.aspx?eid=17088 and https://ieeer8.org/category/committee/meetings/2021-march-online/

Items in these minutes are numbered according to the agenda.

1.   Procedural – Call to Order (Luque) 16:01 h CEST
Region 8 Director Antonio Luque calls the committee to order and opens the 116th IEEE Region 8 Committee meeting welcoming all attendees.

2.   Procedural – Welcome and introduction (Luque)
R8 Director conveys his warmest thanks to all for attending the 116ᵗʰ Region 8 Committee Meeting and gives introduction of the attendees and presenters/speakers.

3.   Procedural – Roll Call (Karadzinov / Luque)
Region 8 Secretary, Ljupco Karadzinov round calls committee members. After the roll call, he informs that 55 (out of 67) committee members are present and confirms the quorum to the chairperson Region 8 Director Antonio Luque.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Austria Section Vice Chair Werner Drexel; Bahrain Section Chair Ali Zolait; Benelux Section Chair Claude Oestges; Bosnia And Herzegovina Section Vice Chair Vedad Becirovic; Bulgaria Section Chair Valentina Markova; Croatia Section Secretary Tomislav Jagust; Cyprus Section Chair Constandinos Mavromoustakis; Denmark Section Chair Sanja Lazarova-Molnar; Egypt Section Chair Ahmed Yousef; Estonia Section Chair Dmitri Vinnikov; Finland Section Chair Dmitry Petrov; France Section Chair Claire Lajoie-Mazenc; Germany Section Chair Jan Haase; Greece Section Women in Engineering Affinity Group Chair Kalliopi Dalakleidi; Hungary Section Chair Tamas Haidegger; Iceland Section Chair Karl GUDMUNDSSO; Iran Section Chair Vahid Ahmadi; Israel Section Chair Shmuel Auster; Italy Section Chair Sergio Rapuano; Jordan Section Chair Ala Khalifeh; Kenya Section Chair Vincent Egessa; Latvia Section Chair Nadezhda Kunicina; Lebanon Section Chair Bachar EL HASSAN; Lithuania Section Chair Vytautas Urbanavicius; Malta Section Chair Conrad Attard; Mauritius Section Chair Eswaren Allaghery; Morocco Section Chair Nasser Assem; Nigeria Section Chair Oyewole (John) Funso-Adebayo; North Macedonia Section Chair Pero Latkoski; Oman Section Chair Abdullah Al-Badi; Poland Section Chair Adam Dabrowski; Portugal Section Chair Catarina Silva; Qatar Section Chair Ridha Hamila; Romania Section Chair Lucian Toma; Russia (Northwest) Section Past-Chair Sergey Shaposhnikov; Russia Section Chair Sergey Bankov; Saudi Arabia Section Chair Mohammad Al-Muhaini; Serbia And Montenegro Section Chair Boris DUMNIC; Slovenia Section Chair Andrej Trost; South Africa Section Chair David Oyedokun; Spain Section Past-Chair Jesus Fraile-Ardanuy; Switzerland Section Chair Maria-Alexandra Paun; Tunisia Section Chair Ilhem Kallel; Turkey Section Chair Hasan Ugurdag; Ukraine Section Chair Felix Yanovsky; United Arab Emirates Section Chair Fatma Taher; United Kingdom and Ireland Section Chair Mona Ghassemian; R8 OpCom Region Director Antonio Luque; R8 OpCom Director Elect Vincenzo Piuri; R8 OpCom Past Director Magdalena Salazar Palma; R8 OpCom Region Secretary Ljupco Karadzinov; R8 OpCom Region Treasurer Adam Jastrzebski; R8 OpCom Vice-Chair Member Activities Sara Barros; R8 OpCom Vice-Chair Student Activities Simay Akar; R8 OpCom Vice-Chair Technical Activities Peter Nagy.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Algeria Section Vice Chair Fatma Zohra Chelali; Belarus Section Chair Yuri Bobkov; Czechoslovakia Section Chair Matej Pacha; Ghana Section Chair George Eduful; Iraq Section Chair Sabiha F. Jawad; Kuwait Section Chair Mansour Jaragh; Norway Section Chair Filippo Sanfilippo; Russia (Siberia) Section Chair Vasilii Borisov; Saudi Arabia Section (West) Chair Mohamed Al-Turki; Sweden Section Chair Samarth Deo; Uganda Section Chair Ezabo Baron; Zambia Section Chair Ariel Phirid.

4. Motion – Introductory remarks - Approval of the agenda (Luque)

The motion to approve the agenda is put forwarded by Director Luque and seconded by the Past Director Salazar. The motion passes.

5. Motion – Approval of Consent Agenda (Luque)

The consent agenda consists of the Approval of the minutes of the 115th Committee meeting, as well as the Approval of appointed members. The motion to accept the Consent Agenda is presented by the Director Antonio Luque and seconded by the Past Director Salazar. The motion passes.

6. Discussion – Director Report (Luque)

R8 Director Luque presents his address, reporting the most relevant activities since last committee meeting regarding the new team, Region 8, the IEEE and the rest of the meeting. He present the new OpCom members, the newly appointed Subcommittee members, the new AdHoc committees on new initiatives (Industry events, Careers and Student contests) and the AdHoc committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Regarding the R8 he present statistic of the 2020 membership affected by pandemic last year; Congratulates the 50ᵗʰ Section anniversaries to Croatia Section, Serbia and Montenegro Section, Slovenia Section; Informs about received awards to R8 members and volunteers; Milestones in our Region 8; Upcoming flagship conferences; and next Region meetings. Regarding the IEEE the Director reports on the MGA and BoD meetings in February. Then he closes the address with the information on the meetings today and tomorrow; discussions at this meeting and R8 topics to discuss (Region realignment, Budget, Member Activities, Student Activities, Technical Activities, Awards, New initiatives, Diversity and inclusion); the Social event in the evening Saturday; and the R8 forum on Sunday at 10:30 UTC with the proposed topics proposed (Pandemic effects, Wellbeing of volunteers, Virtual events, Region realignment). The R8 Director Antonio Luque makes one last tribute to members who passed away Peer M. Larsen, Region 8 Director (1995-96); Jean D. Lebel, Region 8 Director (1965-66); and Julia Merino, Spain Section Treasurer (2018-).

7. Motion – Resolutions for Peer Martin Larsen, Jean D. Lebel, and Julia Merino (Luque)

The Director Luque present motion to approve Resolutions of the IEEE Region 8 Committee in honor of the contributions to IEEE and the IEEE community of the members that passed away Peer M. Larsen, Region 8 Director (1995-96); Jean D. Lebel, Region 8 Director (1965-66); and Julia Merino, Spain Section Treasurer (2018-). The motion is seconded by the Past Director Salazar. The motion passes.

8. Discussion – IEEE President Address (Land)

The 2021 IEEE President & CEO Susan K. (Kathy) Land presents her vision for IEEE with special focus on Transparency and Trust / Diversity and Inclusion / Financial Transparency: typical member view of IEEE, what do our members want, what does our organization need, IEEE NextGen Transition, One Diverse IEEE and the IEEE Volunteer STEM Portal. Questions from the audience are answered.

> **Commented [mm1]:** this sentence appears in several paragraphs – the correction is in reversed characters f[or]m-->f[ro]m and is--> are (questions... - plural)

9. Discussion – IEEE Executive Director Address (Welby)

The IEEE Executive Director & COO Stephen Welby starts his report with an overview of IEEE membership and business statistics and IEEE successful pivot in the face of a global pandemic. Then he reports about the student dues discount offer update; IEEE global operation status and on in-person meetings; Sections Congress Virtual Training Event 2021; UNESCO World Engineering Day for Sustainable Development; IEEE NextGen; 2020 IEEE conferences reaching new publishing milestone; 2021 IEEE Virtual VIC Summit and Honors Ceremony; and how amid global uncertainty, the IEEE looks to the future. Questions from the audience are answered.

10. Discussion – MGA Update (Luiken / Jankowski)

The IEEE VP and MGAB Chair, Maike Luiken presents her report with the motto of Committed to A Better World for All, Interaction is the Catalyst of Innovation and Education is the Catalyst of Sustainability. Then she presents the MGA Vision, Mission, guiding principles, strategies and challenges in 2020 and 2021, key MGA activities for 2021 and priority projects. The MGA Managing Director Cecelia Jankowski presents the key membership and MGA specific strategic and operational responsibilities, membership recovery efforts, 2021 membership development, OU Analytics new features, IEEE Collaboratec, IEEE member contact center. Questions from the audience are answered.

11. Procedural – Break

12. Discussion – Update on Region realignment (Piuri)

The R8 Director Elect Vincenzo Piuri presents the updates on MGA Vision on Global Regional Realignment; the two working groups: (1) Africa + Asia + Europe + Oceania and (2) the Americas; R8 proposal preference; and the future steps in R8. Questions from the audience are answered.

13. Discussion – Regional exchange of ideas (Piuri)

The R8 Director Elect Vincenzo Piuri invites the present three Directors from other IEEE Regions to give short summary of their activities, the challenges, experience and new initiatives: Region 2 Director Barry Tilton, Region 9 Director Alberto Sanchez, Region 10 Deepak Mathur. Questions from the audience are answered.

14. Discussion – President-Elect Candidates Panel- Francis Grosz, Saifur Rahman and S.K. Ramesh (Stasopoulos)

The R8 Director Luque invites the R8 Past Director Costas Stasopoulos to moderate the presentations and Q/A session and discussion with the candidates for IEEE 2022 President-Elect position: Francis Grosz, Saifur Rahman, and S. K. Ramesh. Each of the candidates have earlier submitted short videos especially prepared for Region 8 and published on the R8 website (https://ieeer8.org/category/committee/meetings/2021-march-online/), so now give only a very short 3 minutes live messages. Then the R8 Past-Director Stasopoulos presents to all 3 candidates 4 questions collected from R8 Committee, with 1 minute time to answer each one by every candidate:

1. What new practical actions will you undertake to move IEEE closer to Industry?
2. What steps, if any, will you take to tighten costs and improve operations and accountability at IEEE HQ?
3. What can you do to empower the volunteer leaders at the section level to take more ownership of IEEE services?
4. How can you support the members in the developing countries of Africa?

15. Discussion – A&R program and calls (Salazar-Palma)

The R8 Past Director Magdalena Salazar Palma presents report on Region 8 A&R Program and Calls, and proposals for new R8 awards. This SC is reviewing all R8 awards (including other SC awards) establishing a consistent calendar and unifying the nomination submission using just one platform/portal Openwaters and compiling the R8 awards history with help of Martin Bastiaans. The R8 Past Director Salazar also presents the calendar for the Call for Nominations: March 31, 2021, deadline for nominations: June 30, 2021, winners announced by July 31, 2021, awards ceremony: Fall R8 Committee meeting.

16. Discussion – N&A announcements (Salazar-Palma)

The R8 Past Director Magdalena Salazar Palma presents the 2021 R8 Elections rules and procedures for the 2023-2024 R8 Director Elect and 2022 R8 VCs for MA, SA, TA with the following calendar: Call for Nominations: March 31, 2021; Deadline for nominations: June 30, 2021. She also informs that the 2021 R8 Elections could be affected by the MGAB and BoD decision on Regions Realignment which could be taken during the November 2021 BoD meeting.

17. Discussion – Ethics Activities (Watkins)

The Director Luque invites the Ethics and Member Conduct Committee (EMCC) Steve E. Watkins (SEC Coordinator) to present EMCC activities. Watkins reports on IEEE Code of Ethics revisions in 2020, promoting ethics within IEEE and beyond, IEEE Award for Distinguished Ethical Practices, Student Ethics Competition, ethics resources and organizations. Questions from the audience are answered.

18. Discussion – Education in Africa (Krogh / Kaabunga)

The Director Luque invites the Chair of the IEEE Africa Council Vincent Kaabunga and Bruce Krogh, IEEE Life Fellow to present the project IEEE Continuing Education for Engineering Professionals in Africa. Then Bruce Krogh presents the goals, target countries (year 1: Kenya, Zambia; year 2: Uganda, Rwanda, Ghana; year 3: Nigeria), and the R8 Engagement.

19. Discussion – Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (Ghassemian)

The Director Luque invites the Chair of the R8 Ad hoc Committee Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Mona Ghassemian to presets this committee activities. Ghassemian presents the DEI background, aim, scope of actions, resources, contacts and examples for best practice and metrics. Questions from the audience are answered.

20. Discussion – MOVE World wide program (Randall)

The Director Luque invites the leader of the MOVE (Mobile Outreach VEhicle) Initiative Mary Ellen Randall, also the IEEE Treasurer, to present the activities. Randall explains that MOVE was established 5 years ago as an IEEE project that creates and operates a vehicle for disaster relief, provides needed communications, light & power support to victims unlike some First Responder Efforts (e.g., ARRL, RACES), and is intended to help the disaster survivors by supplying valuable services until normal infrastructure is restored. Additionally it energizes the IEEE volunteer base, highlights skills, promotes public awareness, and more.

21. Discussion – Sections Congress virtual training (Stasopoulos)

The Director Luque invites the R8 Sections Congress Coordinator Costas Stasopoulos to present the forthcoming Sections Congress virtual training on 9-11 April 2021. Stasopoulos explains the background of the IEEE Sections Congresses as the triennial flagship event hosted by MGA that brings together the volunteer leaders from every member country to share ideas and solutions. This year IEEE Sections Congress is going virtual with the sessions recorded for later viewing with the Program Schedule including networking sessions, breakouts, keynotes, virtual exhibits, panel sessions and more.
Questions from the audience are answered.

22. Procedural – Meeting recess (Luque)

The R8 Director declares the meeting recess by 20:05 h CEST.

23. Info – Group WebEx picture

Social event "Evening at a European palace / Nowruz celebration".

The meeting convenes on Sunday 21st March 2021 at 16:03 h CEST

24. Procedural – Call to Order (Luque)

The R8 Director Antonio Luque calls to order, gives short overview of the discussions during the R8 Forum today 11:00 – 13:00 h CEST, and introduces today's agenda points.

25. Procedural – Roll Call (Karadzinov / Luque)

The R8 Director Luque asks the R8 Secretary Ljupco Karadzinov to provide information on the quorum. The R8 Secretary informs that the support staff has counted 43 present R8 Committee members (out of 67) and confirms the quorum to the chairperson Region 8 Director Antonio Luque.

26. Discussion – Finances (Jastrzebski)

The R8 Treasurer and Finance Subcommittee Chair, Adam Jastrzebski presents the report with update on recent activities, the composition of the new Finance Subcommittee, 2020 IEEE Region 8 Budget income, expenses and summary, the financial position as on Dec 2020 and 16 Mar 2021, IEEE NextGen Financial System. Questions from the audience are answered.

27. Motion – Approval of 2021 budget (Jastrzebski)

The R8 Treasurer Adam Jastrzebski presents the Budget 2021 with emphases on the income and other uncertainties, the 2020 Budget surplus and its usage in the 2021, the strategic plan and Budget planning process, and proceeds with the Budget 2021 details. Then Jastrzebski summarizes that the proposed 2021 Budget has been very carefully planned by the teams to achieve the required objectives in these unusual circumstances. However, various assumptions had to be made which may not be fulfilled due to the reasons outside our control, and therefore, this budget we are going to review and update in June 2021, according to the actual progress of the activities and the pandemic situation at the time. Discussion follows and Questions from the audience are answered.

The R8 Treasurer Adam Jastrzebski presents a motion for budget approval and its revision later in the year when the pandemic situation changes. The motion is seconded by the Past Director Salazar. The motion passes.

28. Discussion – Member Activities (Barros)
The R8 Member Activities (MA) Vice Chair Sara Pena Barros presents the Member Activities report that includes the activities of the subcommittees under her portfolio: Membership Development, Young Professionals, Life Members, Women in Engineering, Humanitarian Activities, History Activities, Region 8 News and Electronic Communications team.

29. Motion – AdHoc on careers intiative (Barros / Amin)
The Director Luque invites Mohamed Amin to present the new IEEE Region 8 Ad-Hoc subcommittee on Careers Initiative and the motion to approve it. Mohamed Amin presents the Careers new initiative Project Charter, AdHoC committee members, the planed activities including the Career Platform and its demo.

Then R8 VC MA Sara Pena Barros presents the motion on creation of an AdHoc committee on Careers initiative. The motion is seconded by the R8 VC TA Peter Nagy. There is no discussion. The vote takes place. The motion passes.

30. Procedural – Break

31. Discussion – Student Activities (Akar)
The R8 Vice Chair for Student Activities Simay Akar presents the new team of the R8 Student Activities Committee with new officer positions, the student members, branches and chapters statistics, student OUs activities and reporting. Then Akar presents R8 SAC operation and focus in 2021, the new regional awards, the new logo, etc. Questions from the audience are answered.

32. Motion – AdHoc on new student contests (Akar / Crudgington)
The Director Luque invites Lee Crudgington to present the new initiative from the student's area and the motion to approve it. Crudgington presents the objectives of the new Initiative, the New Student Contests Ad-Hoc and its team, the student contest IEEEduino Challenge with the timeline in 2021.

Then R8 VC SA Akar presents the motion on creation of an AdHoc committee on New Student Contests. The motion is seconded by the by the Past Director Salazar, followed by a discussion. The vote takes place. The motion passes.

33. Discussion – Technical Activities (with conference approvals) (Nagy)
The Director Luque congratulates the birthday and invites the R8 Vice Chair for Technical Activities Peter Nagy to present the Technical Activities report that includes the activities of the subcommittees under his portfolio: Chapters coordination, Professional and Educational Activities, Action for Industry, Standards coordination AdHoc, and Conferences coordination. Questions from the audience are answered.

The R8 VC TA Nagy presents two motions for approval of the next flagship conferences: Approval of Eurocon 2023 and Approval of Africon 2023. The motions are seconded by the by the Director Elect Piuri. The Director Luque opens the discussion on first motion Approval of Eurocon 2023, followed by a discussion. The vote takes place. The motion passes. Than the Director Luque opens the discussion on the second motion "Approval of Africon 2023", followed by discussion. The vote takes place. The motion passes.

34. Motion – AdHoc on new industry events (Nagy / Sinnadurai)

The Director Luque introduces the prerecorded presentation IEEE Region 8 - Focus on Industry. The audio is unintelligible and the Director invites Nihal Sinnadurai to present the slides. Sinnadurai explains the objective is to make IEEE events relevant and attractive to industry and thereby regain an IEEE position that will be of value to industry.

Then Sinnadurai presents the motion on creation of AdHoc committee on New initiative on industry events. The R8 VC TA Nagy reads the text and moves the motion. The motion is seconded by the by the R8 VC TA Sara Burros, followed by a discussion. The vote takes place. The motion passes.

35. Discussion – Update on OpMan changes (Salazar-Palma)

The R8 Past Director Magdalena Salazar Palma presents update on R8 OpMan changes. The objective is to review R8 OpMan for consistency with R8 Bylaws, add established practices, suppress what is outdated, wording. The plan is for the OpCom members to review and update those paragraphs related to their position and SCs in both the Bylaws and the Operations Manual; each SC to produce an update of its Mission, Composition and Statement of Authority included in the Operations Manual and to produce a more detailed SC Operations Manual (separate document) under the lead of each VC; and each other officer (Director, Past Director, Director Elect, Treasurer, Secretary) to also produce an update of the relevant paragraphs of the Bylaws and Operations Manual and a more detailed Operations Manual of the SCs of which they are responsible; other qualified R8 volunteers to help in reviewing the documents (Past Directors, Past Secretary, past VCs); and bring it for R8 Committee approval by the Fall R8 Committee meeting.

36. Discussion – STEM portal (Garcia)

The Director Luque introduces the IEEE EA PreUniversity Education Coordinating Committee Chair Lorena García who gives a short Introducing the IEEE Volunteer STEM Portal, the Challenge for IEEE's STEM Pre-University Education Programs, and the STEM Outreach Programs. Questions from the audience are answered.

37. Discussion – HAC/SIGHT (Veeraraghavan)

The Director Luque introduces IEEE Humanitarian Activities Committee (HAC) Chair Sampathkumar Veeraraghavan who presents IEEE Humanitarian Technology & Sustainable Development activities at IEEE with HAC/SIGHT. Questions from the audience are answered.

38. Discussion – IHTC 2021 (Hessami) presented after point 34, before point 35

The Director Luque introduces Ali Hessami who presents the IHTC 2021 Conference rotating between R7 (Canada), R8 (Africa, Europe, Middle East) and R9 (Latin America, Caribbean).

39. Motion – Motions (Luque)

The Director Luque invites the R8 Treasurer to present the motion submitted by the Voluntary Contributions Fund (VCF) to support registration of low income R8 members to virtual conferences financially or technically co-sponsored by IEEE Region 8, subject to the same conditions for approval already established in the VCF program, and authorizes the VCF Coordinator to manage the funds and applications. The motion is seconded by the Past Director Salazar, followed by a discussion. The motion passes.

The next motion from Section Vitality and Development Sub-Committee on Approval of Libya Subsection is presented by SC Chair Matej Zajc. Members in the country of Libya have submitted a petition to form a Subsection. The request has been re-evaluated based on activities and the SVD guidelines. As per R8 Operations Manual section R8-8.1 the Region 8 Committee needs to approve the formation of a new Subsection and is requested to do so. As the motion is proposed by the subcommittee, there is no need for a second. The motion is voted. The motion passes and is submitted to the MGA Board for final approval.

40. Procedural – New business (Luque)

The Director Luque invites anyone who wants to add something or share some information to raise a hand. No raised hands.

41. Procedural – Concluding remarks and next meeting (Luque)

The R8 Director expresses his gratitude to everybody for participating in the 116th IEEE R8 Committee meeting and being an active R8 volunteer. A special thanks to the MGA staff who supported this WebEx virtual meeting.

42. Procedural – Adjourn

The R8 Director Luque declares the meeting is adjourned at 20:31 h CEST.

End of Meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Ljupco Karadzinov
IEEE R8 Secretary